

- The City will continue providing staff support to the Mayors' Community Task Force on the Homeless.
- The City will continue its efforts to strengthen the existing housing non-profits by providing technical resources and access to resources while fostering the development of new ones to serve specific areas and populations. The City plans to conduct at least one workshop in this period to help meet this strategy.
- Finally, the City will continue to promote coordination between local realtors and lenders to more effectively serve low-income potential homeowners. Such coordination has already resulted in the provision of our down payment/closing cost assistance programs and with the several lenders that have entered into partnership agreements with the City of Rockford.

ENHANCE COORDINATION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND FOSTER PUBLIC HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS AND RESIDENT INITIATIVES

The Community Development Department of the City of Rockford mission statement is to: Provide leadership, foster partnerships and promote balanced growth to enhance the quality of life in all neighborhoods. To that end, the City of Rockford as a whole will place special emphasis on enhancing coordination by encouraging housing related groups, which are in place, to meet on a regular basis and to establish goals, priorities and strategies. The intent is to develop a more coordinated effort in addressing the needs of all low-income residents, including those in public housing. This will be achieved in part by providing staff support to these groups. Specifically, these efforts include:

- 1) Coordinating and developing city funded rehabilitation and homeowner programs with the assistance of local lenders, realtors and housing non-profits.
- 2) Coordinating city-funded home ownership programs through the Rockford Homestead Board.
- 3) Coordinating with housing non-profits by city representation on the coalition of housing interest groups.
- 4) Coordinating and implementing innovative programs and activities in conjunction with neighborhood business district organizations, local lenders, investors, and for-profit businesses. City staff serves as ex officio members of the board of several neighborhood businesses district organizations, such as River District, Inc. and the Seventh Street Area Development Council, Inc.
- 5) Coordinating the rehab programs with the City Community Development, Human Services, and Building Departments

- 6) Coordinating efforts to provide permanent housing opportunities with the local Public Housing Authorities.
- 7) Coordinating efforts with the Public Health Department to use their services for lead-risk assessments and clearance testing.
- 8) Coordination with major stakeholders in focus areas in the sharing of resources.
- 9) Partner with the Local Housing Authorities in the demolition and redevelopment of affordable housing in the community.
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Homeless programs, emergency payment of rent and utilities, weatherization, rehab programs and lead hazard reduction programs are administered by the Human Services Department and, when possible, are coordinated with the City's Community Development Department. Additionally, low-income housing tax credit deals and state trust fund developments must be reviewed and signed off on by the City.

PUBLIC HOUSING

A summary of the Rockford Housing Authority's FY 2006 Annual Plan is included as Appendices B.

The Rockford Housing Authority (RHA) has been designated as a Standard Performer by HUD under the Public Housing Assessment System for Fiscal Year 2005 with an overall score of 85 out of a possible 100 points. This represents significant progress and continual improvement in recent years, particularly in the financial scoring area of this system. The RHA is currently undergoing a major reorganization in its delivery of services as it moves to a HUD mandated project-based management system that more closely reflects the property management practices of the private sector. The results of this reorganization are expected to improve efficiency and reduce costs by de-centralizing services and focusing on the "best interest of the properties."

The following narrative statements describe how the actions of the City of Rockford will foster public housing improvements and resident initiatives and help meet the needs of public housing.

The Rockford Housing Authority has a strong commitment to customer service and promotes resident input through regularly scheduled meetings with the Executive Director. Together, the City of Rockford and the Rockford Housing Authority will continue to work together more to help public housing residents access community